GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1425
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2017
Use of Information Technology in Agriculture
Wanaga Shri Chintaman Navsha

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's information technology is more developed but Agriculture Sector has not got proper benefit on account of bad financial condition of the farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): Country's Information Technology sector which mostly comes under service sector of economy is well developed. However, it cannot be compared with Agriculture Sector due to inherent differences between these two sectors. Government is implementing various schemes for welfare of farmers and growth of agriculture sector like Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Soil Health Card, Neem Coated Urea, e-NAM, NFSM, NMOOP, MIDH, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana etc.

As far as Information Technology in Agriculture is concerned, the Government is using Information Technology most appropriately for the benefit of farmers through various on-going ICT initiatives. Considering vast geographical area, large number of farmers, numerous regional variations and databases, extensive use of Information and Communication Technology tools is necessary to disseminate relevant information and appropriate technologies among farmers.

Increased penetration of mobile handsets amongst the masses and low cost of usage and availability of huge data base on open government platform free of cost led to growth of large number of mobile based information delivery models for agriculture sector.

SMSs, website/portals, mobile apps (Kisan Suvidha, Pusa Krishi, Agrimarket, Crop Insurance, CCE Agri) etc., are the few modes used to meet the information needs of farmers.

Apart from Information Technology, the Space and Geospatial Technology is highly developed in the country. Government has developed many national level operational programmes for crop production forecasting (FASAL), drought assessment (NADAMS), horticultural inventory and development (CHAMAN), Crop Insurance (KISAN) and crop intensification in post Kharif Rice Fallow areas.

Many flagship programmes of Government, such as Pradhan Mantri Krishi Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), Soil Health Card (SHC) also mandates use of IT, Space Technology and Geospatial Tools for their effective implementation.

(c): Not applicable.

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